





# SIMPLOT & CS BEEF PACKERS APPRECIATES OUR VA STAFF



**JOIN US  
DEC. 2  
OUTSIDE  
BLDG. 29**



Simplot is coming to campus to distribute free food boxes and fresh French fries to VA & Veterans Home staff. On behalf of our entire community, Simplot and CS Beef would like to thank you for the incredible care you're providing.

***The Treasure Valley is safer and healthier because of you!***

Free Fries and Food Boxes (box includes: Flame-Roasted Fuji Apples (2.5 lb. bag); Roasted Redskin Potatoes & Jalapeno Blend (2.5 lb. bag); Flame-Roasted Corn & Jalapeno Blend (2.5 lb. bag); Ground Beef Patties (4 count). For recipes visit <https://go.simplotfoods.com/heroes>.

**ONE FOOD BOX PER EMPLOYEE - FOOD BOXES ARE FROZEN  
COME AS OFTEN AS YOU WOULD LIKE DURING THE DAY FOR FRIES  
DRIVE THRU AREA AFTER SHIFT OR WALK BY ANY TIME FROM 6:30AM to 8:00PM  
MUST SHOW WORK BADGE TO RECEIVE FRIES AND FOOD BOX  
PLEASE WEAR MASK IF YOU ARE WALKING IN**

# FREE

**FRESH COOKED  
FRENCH FRIES AND  
FROZEN FOOD  
BOXES FOR STAFF!**

**JOIN US ANY TIME  
DECEMBER 2ND  
OUTSIDE THE LRC  
(BLDG. 29)**

Chloe Mathewson, RN



# GOOD CATCH AWARD



**Chloe Mathewson, RN, on the Green Team (Infusion Room) identified and reported a GREAT Catch to improve medication ordering and safety.**

Chloe identified several times where providers have placed a consult for an “Infliximab ABDA” infusion for patients when they intended to place a consult for an

“Infliximab” infusion. Patients would have received the wrong medication if it had not been caught by clinic staff. Chloe found that when a medication consult is placed, the two medication tabs are sitting one next to the other making it easy to click the wrong medication. She asked if the medications could be separated in the list to prevent confusion.

The request to separate the medications in the pick-list was send to the Boise Clinical Application Coordinators and the Pharmacy Team for review and evaluation. Working together to identify a solution, Karen Smith and Garret Smith, worked on a new procedure order set. The new order set includes a procedure consult bundled in a set with the prior authorization drug request (PADR) consult to ensure the correct product is chosen.

Thank you, Chloe, for reporting your concerns and helping to improve medication safety!





**BIG THANKS TO THE BRIDGEPOINT CHURCH WOMEN'S  
GROUP FOR THEIR DONATION OF 'KIND KITS' TO THE ICU  
AND RESPIRATORY THERAPY!**



# Donate Blood In Honor Of Wade Houser



Wade Houser went through radiation for a cancerous plasmacytoma in his neck last year. The family was hopeful that it would stay in remission, but it popped up again in other areas, and he is now battling Multiple Myeloma. He has been receiving chemotherapy and will begin a stem cell transplant process soon. He will likely need blood transfusions, so please consider donating blood in his name.

## **Blood Drive in Honor of Wade Houser Boise VA Medical Center**

VA Gym in Building 119  
911 Mountain Cove Rd.  
Boise, ID 83702

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021  
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Schedule online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Sponsor code: BVA  
Or contact Cheryl Ross (208) 422-1000 ext 7778 or Dezirae (208) 440-9766

Thank you for showing Wade your support!

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.**



**American Red Cross**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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[ 03 ] - Order ID: 030302 - Item ID: 5679457 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 00315791 - 2015-APL-01555 - 03/13AP 105 - 41200 - 216036







## Compliance Corner A Holiday Reminder About the Gift Rules

By Walter M. Shaub, Jr

The holiday season is upon us again, with homemade treats, gift baskets, assorted other goodies, and invitations abundant in workplaces across the country. Whether you are on the giving end or receiving end of a gift to a federal employee, however, be careful to observe the government's ethics rules.

As is the case in every season, the ethics rules generally prohibit executive branch employees from accepting gifts from outside

the government if the gifts are given either because of their official positions or by prohibited sources. Prohibited sources include those who seek official action by the employees' agencies, do business or seek to do business with their agencies, conduct activities regulated by their agencies, or are substantially affected by the employees' own duties.

Gift-giving between federal employees is also subject to limitations. Generally, federal employees may not give gifts to their supervisors. Likewise, they may not accept gifts from their subordinates or other federal employees who are paid less than they are paid.

There are some reasonable exceptions to the rules. For example, an employee may accept gifts from a spouse, child, or other close family member. Regardless of the source, an employee normally may accept items of nominal value and light refreshments, such as a greeting card, a cup of coffee, a cookie, and the like. The rules also permit an employee to accept a gift, other than cash, from a coworker worth up to \$10. Likewise, an employee may accept a gift, other than cash, from the public worth up to \$20, as long as the total value of all gifts from any one source does not exceed \$50 in a calendar year. Offers of free attendance at certain events may be accepted if approved by the employee's agency ethics officials.

Employees who are offered impermissible gifts should decline or return the gifts. Sometimes employees find declining gifts to be awkward, usually because they are afraid to seem rude or ungrateful. While these are legitimate concerns, situations in which employees must decline gifts present opportunities to educate the public on the government's high standards for impartiality and integrity. Employees can explain that they are not rejecting the expressions of generosity or gratitude that the gifts represent, even though strict rules for public service prevent them from accepting the gifts. While the ethics rules may seem to dampen the spirit of the season, they protect the government from even the appearance of impropriety. With that in mind, the best way for a member of the public to show gratitude for a federal employee's good services is usually to offer a simple, "Thank you."

For more guidance about giving or accepting gifts, contact the Boise VAMC Integrity and Compliance Officer, Debbie Reinhart at 208-422-1267 or [Deborah.reinhart@va.gov](mailto:Deborah.reinhart@va.gov).

# COMPLIANCE CORNER





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# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH OCTOBER

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**Dollie Black**

Dollie Black - LPN Dollie Black embodies the ICARE core values. She is the longest employed nurse in the Women's Wellness Center serving seven years. Over the years, LPN Black has filled multiple nursing roles making her an incredible asset on the Women's Wellness Center team. She is always ready and willing to serve in a capacity that will assist the Veterans we serve as well as her fellow colleagues. It's not unusual to see Dollie going above and beyond with helping Women Veterans and their caregivers with difficult situations and staying extra hours to advocate for them. Dollie's historical knowledge of the Women's Wellness Center is unparalleled and as such, LPN Black's colleagues fondly consider her the walking encyclopedia for questions regarding the building's history, clinical processes, and it's Veteran population. She is always willing and committed to sharing her knowledge with her new colleagues during staff orientations and training. Her excellent work ethics are apparent as she typically is the first person entering the clinic in the morning and puts in extra work hours during the week to support patient care and her colleagues. Each morning everyone is greeted with her warm smile and happy disposition. She is also the "cheerleader" and caretaker of the clinic group. This was apparent amidst the long hours of the pandemic, when LPN Black spent her personal time making paper hearts listing everyone's personal strengths and placing them on their cubicles. This heartfelt gesture was appreciated by all staff members entering the clinic. Through her deeds, she has earned the respect of her fellow colleagues and patients by striving to provide the highest quality of care for the Veterans we serve and her commitment to the Women's Wellness Center.





# LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

If you are,  
or know of  
a veteran  
who needs help this holiday  
season please stop by the  
Information Desk at the Boise  
VA Medical Center to fill out a  
request form.

Those veterans/families will be  
contacted to be connected with  
sponsors, donations and other  
forms of support during the  
holiday season.

*For more information contact the Boise VA  
Volunteer Services at (208) 422-1176*



# BOISE is HIGHLY RELIABLE

## HRO PRINCIPLES & VALUES

THEME OF THE MONTH  
**Respect for People**

November 2021 | National Safety Poster

### Taking Care of Each Other To Care for Our Veterans

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#### CONTEXT

The spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has created unprecedented stress and caused shifts in work environments. The Requirements Development and Management (RDM) team under VHA's Office of Health Informatics (OHI) recognized the need to support its staff members' personal mental health, wellness and virtual work environment.

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#### ACTION

The team created a wellness program with an RDM Team Water Cooler on Microsoft Teams to connect virtually and access wellness resources. Additionally, a weekly email communication is sent with information about their work, reminders about wellness resources, and spotlighting wellness challenges.

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#### RESULTS

This has led to increased cohesion among the team and staff resilience. Respecting each other's wellness has created an environment of trust in which staff members feel valued and supported. By creating this supportive work environment, the RDM team indirectly ensures staff members are able to provide dedicated support to VHA clinicians and Veterans. The team is actively working to expand this program to all OHI staff in the near future.



“Respecting each other's wellness has created an environment of trust in which all staff members feel valued and supported.”

*Emily Jevic*

*Deputy Director, Requirements Development and Management  
VHA Office of Health Informatics*

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

For more information, visit: [http://bit.ly/HighReliability\\_sp](http://bit.ly/HighReliability_sp)

VHA'S JOURNEY TO  
**HIGH  
RELIABILITY**

Your Care is Our Mission.



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# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH **NOVEMBER**

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**Richard Hair**

Richard Hair - Richard works in endoscopy full time. He is completely committed to providing excellent care to our Veterans. He looks at their current situation when ordering their medications, and the reason for the order, to individually tailor their experience, giving the best service possible. Richard will compose letters according to the needs of the Veteran, making it a personal and individual experience, just for him/her. He converses with the Veterans in such a caring and compassionate way, making it his priority to show absolute respect in every encounter. Richard's commitment to the VA and to the Veterans is evident in his willingness to pick up extra hours and extra shifts in various departments, as various needs arise, working overtime most weeks. He makes it his personal responsibility to continuously strive for excellence in all that he does for his department, his co-workers, his patients, and for the VA. I have been inspired to provide even better care in the time I have worked with Richard.

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# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH **NOVEMBER**

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**Scott Roark**

I submitted an IT ticket for a program I needed access to that a NARS request didn't provide. I had tried for weeks to get access via different avenues with no luck. Scott Roark got my ticket and was diligent until success. He didn't leave me hanging without answers. He showed great Commitment, Integrity and Excellence. My problem became his problem until I had access. He took the time to care and make sure all of my programs and printers were working, because he ALSO replaced my laptop when he noticed certain items (card reader) weren't operating properly. I had FULL SERVICE IT and I was SO IMPRESSED by his commitment to my satisfaction. He showed advocacy when I was getting runaround from others. Scott Roark literally embodies ICARE values and it really shows.